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Billy Carter Used By Brzezinski as Libya Go-Between

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The White House revealed yesterday that Zbigniew Brzezinski, the president's national security adviser, used Billy Carter last year as an intermediary to arrange a meeting with the Libyan charge d'affaires in Washington.

That meeting, between Brzezinski, Billy Carter and Ali Houderi, took place last Nov. 27, 23 days after the American hostages were seized in Tehran.

White House press secretary Jody Powell said yesterday that Brzezinski asked the Libyan for his government's help in winning the hostages' release from Iran. Soon afterward, Powell said, Houderi informed Brzezinski that the Libyan leader, Muammar Qaddafi, had sent a message to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini asking for the hostages' release.

Senior White House officials acknowledged last night that the revelation that Brzezinski had used Billy Carter as a go-between "built up Billy in Libyan eyes" as one of them put it, and thus could have contributed to the Libyans' view that Billy Carter could be a valuable agent in the United States.

Billy Carter revealed in a registration with the Justice Department last week that he received \$220,000 from the Libyan government in January and April of this year as payments on what he described as a \$500,000 loan. The money came in two checks conveyed to Carter through an intermediary by Houderi, the Libyan diplomat.

One senior official at the White House acknowledged last night that the revelation of Brzezinski's role in using Carter as an emissary is likely to open a new series of questions.

The first question may be why did Brzezinski turn to Billy Carter instead of other possible intermediaries, when he had known since early 1979 that the Justice Department was investigating Billy Carter's relations with the Libyans?

News of Brzezinski's role was released yesterday in a formal White House statement intended to calm the political tempest that is brewing on Capitol Hill over the Billy Carter affair. The statement reiterated, with new detail, past White House insistence that it had not been involved in any improper way with the Justice Department's investigation of Billy Carter.

The White House also released a statement by President Carter rebuking his brother. "I do not believe it is appropriate for a close relative of the president to undertake any assignment on behalf of a foreign government. Facts relating to the existence of any such relationship should be fully and publicly disclosed."

Calls for full disclosure were also heard yesterday on Capitol Hill. House and Senate Republicans both laid plans for investigations of the Billy Carter affair that they obviously hoped would prove politically damaging to his older brother, the president.

The revelation that Brzezinski and Billy Carter met with Houderi last November was the first official indication that any such contact had taken place. The White House statement yesterday said Brzezinski had initiated this meeting by calling on Billy Carter for help.

Other White House officials elaborated, saying that Brzezinski felt that using Billy Carter would be a good way to get around the diplomatic iceberg then blocking Libyan-American relations.

"Our relations were very cool then," one official said, and Brzezinski felt that using Carter would demonstrate to the Libyans that he wanted to make a serious proposition.

Five days after the Brzezinski-Carter-Houderi meeting, mobs in Tripoli burned the American Embassy there. It was sometime after that incident that Qaddafi asked Khomeini to re-

The explanation that Brzezinski initiated this meeting by calling Billy Carter was disputed yesterday by a government official who was intimately involved in the early diplomatic efforts to free the American hostages.

This source, who had heard of Brzezinski's dealings with Billy Carter and the Libyan charge many months before yesterday's announcement, told The Washington Post that it was Billy Carter who asked Brzezinski to meet, and not the other way around. At least that was the version of the encounter that reached this high official, he said.

White House officials said "Zbig was very explicit" that he, not Billy Carter, initiated the meeting.

Earlier yesterday in an interview with The Washington Post, Billy Carter described Brzezinski as one of the few people in his brother's White House with whom he has maintained an ongoing relationship. He said he seeks out Brzezinski whenever he visits the White House.

"I know very few people in the White House," he said. "He is one of the few I do, and I like him very much."

The Washington Post also was told by sources close to Brzezinski yesterday that he has long taken a personal interest in improving Libyan-American relations.

In the statement released yesterday, the White House for the first time revealed a reason for Billy Carter's desire to meet with Brzezinski last June 11, the same day he first talked with Justice Department officials about the \$220,000 he had received from Libya.

According to the statement, Billy Carter asked Brzezinski "whether there was any national security reason why he could not disclose" details of the earlier Brzezinski-Carter-Houderi meeting to Justice Department investigators. Brzezinski informed Billy Carter that there was not, the statement said.

The White House said that five minutes after the June 11 meeting began, Brzezinski asked White House counsel Lloyd Cutler to join it, after Billy raised the subject of the Justice Department investigation.

Cutler then advised Billy that he should have a lawyer, and suggested several law firms to him. From that list, Carter selected Stephen J. Pollak.

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